

# National Landscape Conservation System

## Decade of Discovery

### Field Trips

Field trips associated with the Decade of Discovery Science Symposium are not necessarily typical in their offerings. The topics are as wide ranging as the locations and a few are within striking distance of Albuquerque. All field trips require that you have a vehicle or can carpool with another attendee. Also the trips at more distant locations have been provided for attendees that may be driving home and wishing to see an NLCS unit in another state with a knowledgeable guide.

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## NEW MEXICO

### **National Historic Trails, Santa Fe, New Mexico**

**Meeting location, date, and time:** May 28. Meet in Santa Fe, time and location to be determined and announced at symposium.

**Description of the trip:** We will explore Santa Fe, New Mexico, the historic capital of trade, travel, and commerce in the southwestern US, through the routes and sites associated with two national historic trails administered jointly by the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro and the Old Spanish Trail. Sites to be visited on the fieldtrip include the Santa Fe Plaza, La Cieneguilla Ruins and Petroglyphs, El Rancho de Las Golondrinas, the Palace of the Governors, and La Bajada overlook. The field trip will begin with La Bajada, the steepest and most challenging climb or descent on El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, and move on to La Cieneguilla Ruin and Petroglyphs and nearby sites that cover nearly 1000 years of history. We may stop for lunch at El Rancho de las Golondrinas, one of the early “parajes” or campsites on the historic road, today a living history museum, and then move into Santa Fe along the Camino Real. Or, we can move from La Cieneguilla directly into Santa Fe, and break for lunch on the Plaza. In Santa Fe, we will visit the historic Plaza and the Palace of the Governors, the oldest continuously occupied governmental building in the United States. Our tour of the Plaza will include a discussion of the roles of the Old Spanish Trail, the Camino Real, the Santa Fe Trail, and Historic Route 66 in the development of Santa Fe.

**Scientific studies underway in the area that will be discussed:** Identification and documentation of historic trail resources; watershed analyses; preservation and mitigation strategies for impacts to historic trail resources; developing sustainable management practices for partnerships and associated resources.

**Duration of trip:** All Day.

**Travel time from Albuquerque:** 1 hour 15 minutes.

**Duration of Trip:** 9 hours.

**If a hike is included, how many miles (round trip) and difficulty:** La Bajada hike option is 1 ½ miles; unimproved trail, some sections steep with loose stones.

**Vehicle Requirements:** SUVs recommended; can do with vans..

**Secondary lodging available:** Santa Fe has a variety of lodging options.

**Weather conditions likely to be encountered:** Sun, unsheltered

**Required items to bring:** Will need to bring water, lunch, sunscreen, hiking boots, appropriate clothing.

**Group size information:** Minimum size 15; maximum, 25 participants

### **El Malpais NCA Prairie Dogs**

**Meeting location, date, and time:** May 28, 2010. Meet at the BLM Rio Puerco Field Office (435 Montano Rd. NE Albuquerque, NM 87107) at 8:00 AM.

**Description of the trip:** This field trip will involve a 1.5 hour drive West of Albuquerque to El Malpais National Conservation Area. The site we will be visiting is the first prairie dog relocation site in the Rio Puerco Field Office (RPFO). The area has been designated in the RPFO Resource Management Plan for

“prairie dog enhancement” because it is a keystone species and also the primary food/shelter source for the endangered black-footed ferret (BFF). By enhancing this population, we are hoping to bring it to the appropriate level for reintroduction of the BFF. This enhancement will also benefit other wildlife in the area including small mammals and reptiles that inhabit prairie dog colonies as well as raptors and terrestrial carnivores who utilize them as a food source.

**Science occurring in the area that will be discussed:** The main science topics that will be discussed on this trip include:

- Ecological importance of keystone species using prairie dogs as a key example.
- Effects of bubonic plague on prairie dog populations and their consequent effects on the endangered BFF. Focus on the specialized dependence the BFF has on the prairie dog, and discuss recent severe declines in prairie dog populations and the implications this has had for the BFF.
- Process of prairie dog translocation (from source to sink) and associated problems.
- Public interest and controversy regarding prairie dogs (some people love ‘em, some hate ‘em...why?).

**Duration of trip:** All Day.

**Travel time from Albuquerque:** 1.5 Hours.

**Duration of Trip:** 4 Hours.

**If a hike is included, how many miles (round trip) and difficulty:** Short hike included (low difficulty, on flat terrain).

**Vehicle Requirements:** There will be some off-road travel, however, the fewer vehicles the better, so as to increase the chance of seeing wildlife. On signing up for this trip, indicate if you would be willing to drive others, how many people your vehicle holds, and if it is 4WD or 2WD. Those without vehicles, or those wanting to carpool, may arrange for a ride ahead of time based on available space.

**Secondary lodging available:** This is a day trip, and we will be back in Albuquerque by 4 pm.

**Weather conditions likely to be encountered:** Weather should not be a problem. If it does rain, the field trip can proceed but we will skip the off-road part and the hike.

**Other safety precautions:** If attendees wish to participate in the short hike, they will have to squeeze under or through a 4-stranded barbed wire fence. There is no gate. We will hold the strands open to allow enough space for everyone willing to pass. There are no other safety precautions. Anyone can attend this trip.

**Required items to bring:** Sack lunch or sufficient snack to last you until 4 pm, hat, sunscreen and binoculars (you will want these).

**Group size information:** Minimum 5, maximum 15 people. I am willing to budge on this number depending on the level of interest in the trip.

### **Orilla Verde Recreation Area Riparian Restoration Project**

**Meeting location, date, and time:** Rio Grande Gorge Visitor Center, Highway 68, Pilar, NM, 10:00 a.m.

**Description of the trip:** Site visit to saltcedar treatment sites, areas of native plant restoration, Southwestern willow flycatcher habitat. Caravan would be advisable to minimize number of vehicles at small parking areas within the project site.

**Science occurring in the area that will be discussed:** Removal of invasive vegetation and native plant restoration techniques.

**Duration of trip:** All Day.

**Travel time from Albuquerque:** 2-3 hours depending on traffic and weather.

**Duration of Trip:** 3 hours.

**If a hike is included, how many miles (round trip) and difficulty:**

**Vehicle Requirements:** Passenger vehicles are fine. Road is paved along the river and adjacent to treatment sites. On signing up for this trip, indicate if you would be willing to drive others and how many people your vehicle holds.

**Secondary lodging available:** Comfort Suites, 1500 Paseo del Pueblo Sur, Taos, 575-751-1555; Quality Inn, 1043 Paseo del Pueblo Sur, 575-758-2200.

**Weather conditions likely to be encountered:** Rain, hail, hot or cold temperatures.

**Other safety precautions:** Boots, to ensure safe footing along riverbank.

**Required items to bring:** Hat, sunscreen, water, snacks, binoculars.

**Group size information:** Minimum 10, maximum 30.

### **Chihuahuan Desert Grassland Restoration Tour, West Potrillo WSA**

**Meeting location, date, and time:** Upham Exit at 10:00 am at the Upham Exit which is on Interstate 25 approximately 24 Miles north of Las Cruces New Mexico – Group will meet on the north side of the Interstate on Friday May 28, 2010.

**Description of the trip:** This tour will make stops at various restoration areas completed in the past 20 years. The discussion will focus on the health of these lands, potential for restoration, current regulations and policies associated with land restoration in special designation areas - such as Wilderness Study Areas, Wilderness Areas and National Conservation Areas. In addition to land health determination discussion, the group will offer the latest from the Scientific Community (Jornada ARS and New Mexico State University) with regard to assessing soil and vegetation resources health and management.

**Science occurring in the area that will be discussed:** Restoration projects have been monitored for many years resulting in both the short term and long term changes to these sites in plant and animal diversity and productivity. These restoration projects are the first step in restoring fire to achieve resource objectives at the landscape level.

**Duration of trip:** All Day.

**Travel time from Albuquerque:** Just a little over 3 hours.

**Duration of Trip:** We estimate the tour to take 6 hours.

**If a hike is included, how many miles (round trip) and difficulty:** Minor Hiking from improved road surface along the route.

**Vehicle Requirements:** High Clearance two or four wheel drive SUV, CARS and or Trucks – travelling over hard surface improved roads – paved and gravel.

**Secondary lodging available:** Las Cruces and a list will be provided upon request with prices.

**Weather conditions likely to be encountered:** In late May will encounter highs in the mid 80's to the high 90's with lows in the 60's. Not our rainy season, however be prepared for light thunderstorms.

**Other safety precautions:** Dress for the desert in light, full cover, cotton clothing with wide brimmed hats - sun screen, appropriate high top boots.

**Required items to bring:** Water and snacks, since we plan lunch in Hatch.

**Group size information:** We are able to accommodate up to 20 vehicles with up to 50 people.

### **Cox Ranch Pueblo, Mesita Blanca WSA**

**Meeting location, date, and time:** May 29, 2010, 11:00 AM at the The Country Store, 3907 Highway 60, Quemado, NM 87829.

**Description of the trip:** We will drive from Quemado about ½ hour to the site, park on the edge of the road and hike to several roomblocks and middens within this large greathouse complex. We will discuss management challenges and recent research findings at this settlement on the southern frontier of the Chacoan system. Carpooling to Quemado is encouraged, and further carpooling from Quemado to the site is encouraged. Please indicate willingness to transport others or need for transport on registration form.

#### **Science occurring in the area that will be discussed:**

**Archaeology:** Dr. Andrew Duff of Washington State University has been studying two greathouse communities on the southern frontier of the Chacoan system since 2002, in partnership with the BLM, Socorro Field Office. Investigations have incorporated field inventory and excavations, and tribal perspectives with consultants from the pueblos of Zuni, Hopi, Laguna and Acoma have been a critical component of the project. For additional background on the research, see the issue of Archaeology Southwest found at this link:

<http://libarts.wsu.edu/anthro/pdf/Duff%20et%20al.%20Arch-sw-v22-no1.pdf>

**Paleontology:** Significant paleontological finds have recently occurred in the area, including Zuni Triceratops. These locations are not accessible, but findings will be discussed.

**Duration of trip:** All Day.

**Travel time from Albuquerque:** 2 hours 45 minutes from Albuquerque to meeting location in Quemado. Additional 30 minutes from meeting location to site.

**Duration of Trip:** 8 or 9 hours (round trip from Albuquerque).

**If a hike is included, how many miles (round trip) and difficulty:** About a mile of walking will be involved. Site location is fairly flat, so walking will be not be difficult. Site is large but only ¼ mile (+-) from vehicles.

**Vehicle Requirements:** Pickup or SUV preferred. Graded county roads but not paved.

**Secondary lodging available:** Largo Motel and Café, Quemado, 575-773-4686.

**Weather conditions likely to be encountered:** Possible heat, wind. Anything is possible in May.

**Other safety precautions:** Bring sun protection and water, and watch for snakes.

**Required items to bring:** Hiking boots, hat, sunscreen, lunch, water. Groceries, water and a large variety of snack items are available at The Country Store for those unable to pack a lunch before the field trip.

**Group size information:** Limited to 15 participants.

### **Fort Stanton – Snowy River Cave NCA**

**Duration of trip:** All Day.

**Meeting location, date, and time:** May 28, 2010 - NCA BLM Bunkhouse, 8:00 AM. Participants may want to drive up on May 27, 2010 and get a motel or stay at the BLM Bunkhouse.

**Description of the trip:** Two activities:

- (1) 4-6 hour caving trip in Fort Stanton Cave to Snowy River.
- (2) Hike sustainable trails in NCA, and for those who would also like to see Fort Stanton Cave, a short, 1-hour trip (no formations – just a Mammoth Cave-like main passage).

**Science occurring in the area that will be discussed:**

- (1) Geomicrobiology (extremophile microbes), cave speleogenesis (mineralogy, geology, dating), human impact dna studies, hydrogeology (water monitoring), management (cave monitoring, cave mapping, resistivity studies).
- (2) Sustainable trail system and basic cave management.

**Travel time from Albuquerque:** 3 hours.

**Duration of Trip:** All day.

- (1) Cave Trip 4-6 hours.
- (2) Surface Activities and short cave trip 4-5 hours.

**If a hike is included, how many miles (round trip) and difficulty:**

- (1) Cave Trip - 2½ miles, mostly walking, hands and knees crawling for total of 1,200 feet round trip.
- (2) Surface Activities – Primarily hiking (if you have a mountain bike with you, you may want to try ours trails). Short cave trip is walking.

**Vehicle Requirements:** Paved roads and very good dirt roads accessible to 2-wheel drive cars and trucks.

**Secondary lodging available:**

BLM Bunkhouse – bring sleeping bag and food. Bunkhouse has 14 beds, restrooms, showers, kitchen (stove, microwave, refrigerator, cups, utensils), dining area.

Nearest convenient motel is Smokey Bear Motel, 316 Smokey Bear Blvd. Capitan, New Mexico.

1-800-766-5392, 1-800-SMOKEY- B, <http://www.smokeybearmotel.com>.

Ruidoso motels 25 miles southwest - <http://www.ruidosonow.com> .

**Weather conditions likely to be encountered:** Late May is usually warming up – could be 80°F and could be windy.

- (1) Cave Trip, in-cave conditions are stable at 56-60°F. At BLM Bunkhouse will gear up and go immediately to cave.
- (2) Surface Activities – Primarily hiking (if you have a mountain bike with you, you may want to try ours trails). Short cave trip is walking.



**Other safety precautions:** Complete caving PPE (helmet, headlamp, backup light sources, gloves, kneepads) will be supplied by BLM.

**Required items to bring:**

- (1) Cave Trip: Long-sleeved shirt, long pants, sturdy hiking shoes or boots with rubber soles, camera, 1 quart of water, high-energy food, day or waist pack (BLM can supply a cave pack).
- (2) Surface Activities: Wear broad-brimmed hat, sun screen, bring walking stick, sturdy hiking shoes or boots, day pack, lunch.

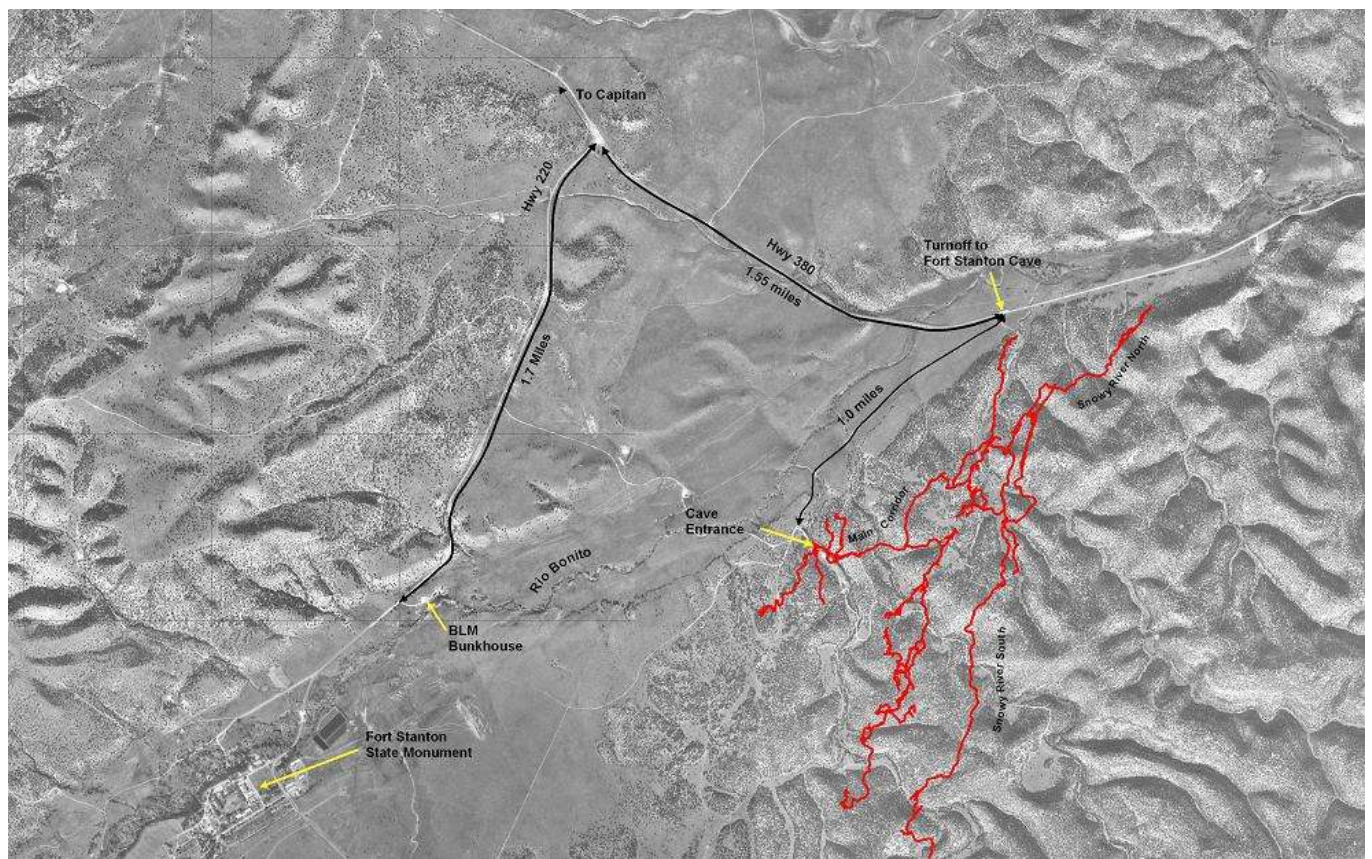
**Group size information:**

- (1) Cave Trip - can be done in one or two groups of up to 8 persons, which includes 2 cavers, one of which would be a cave scientist .
- (2) Surface Activities – maximum of 15.

**Map:** Use Mapquest from Albuquerque, NM to Fort Stanton, NM. From Capitan

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps?1c=Albuquerque&1s=NM&1y=US&1l=35.0844&1g=-106.650597&1v=CITY&2c=Fort+Stanton&2s=NM&2y=US&2l=33.4958&2g=-105.522499&2v=CITY>

However, do not drive all the way to the Fort. When you turn onto State Road 220 from U.S. 380, drive 1.7 miles to a large, square tan building with whitish roof – the Bunkhouse. If driving from Ruidoso, drive ½-mile past the old Fort on State Road 220 to the Bunkhouse.



### **Prehistoric Trackways National Monument: “The Discovery Site”**

**Meeting location, date, and time:** Drury Inn: 1631 Hickory Loop, Las Cruces, NM, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 7:30 am.

**Description of the trip:** We will drive out to the east entrance of the Monument and then hike out to the “Discovery Site” where Jerry MacDonald excavated 2000+ slabs of trackways in the late 1980’s, early 1990’s.

**Science occurring in the area that will be discussed:** Jerry MacDonald will be leading the hike. He will discuss the history of the site and the excavation. He will also discuss the scientific significance of the trackways, and the research that has happened since the excavation, including the discovery of swimming trace rocks, jellyfish imprints, petrified wood, and ancient foliage. The science will focus on the paleontological significance of the area and how it creates a comprehensive picture of Permian life 280 million years ago.

**Duration of trip:** All Day.

**Travel time from Albuquerque:** 3 hrs.

**Duration of Trip:** 3 hrs.

**If a hike is included, how many miles (round trip) and difficulty:** 2 – 2 ½ miles, not rigorous, but challenging because of no established trail. We will be walking up an arroyo with debris in it for much of the hike.

**Vehicle Requirements:** High clearance probably preferred but if you do not have it, you can stop before the dirt road and we will shuttle you to the parking spot.

**Secondary lodging available:** Drury Inn, 1631 Hickory Loop, Las Cruces, NM 88005-6587, (575) 523-4100.

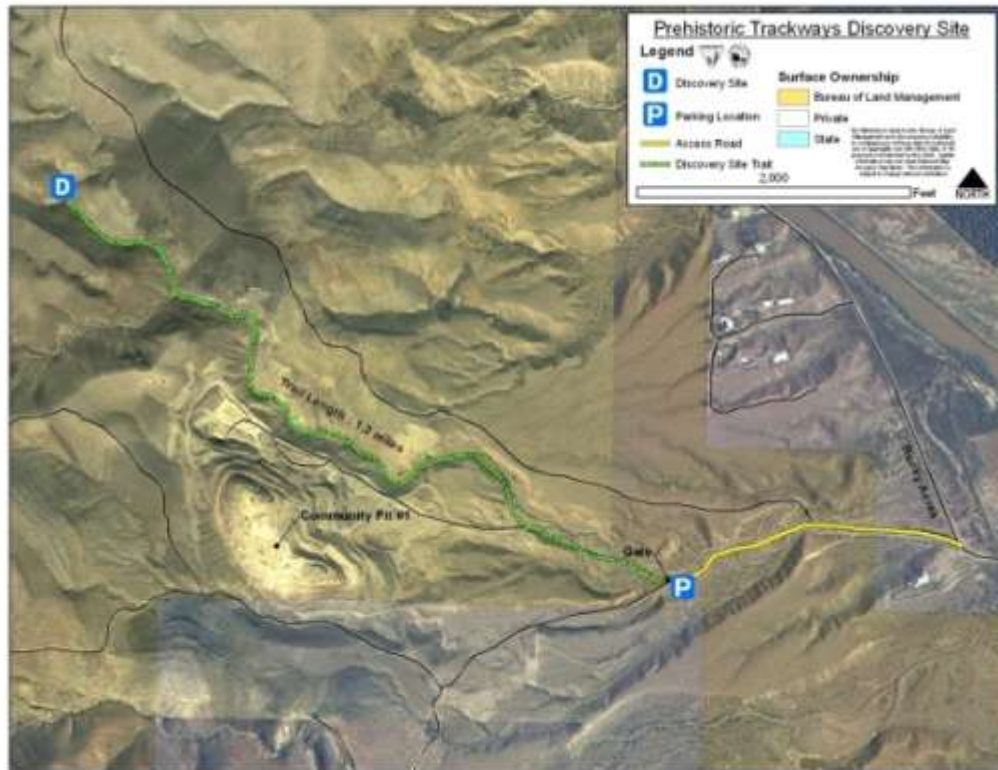
**Weather conditions likely to be encountered:** The weather will probably be hot and sunny, but hopefully by doing the hike in the early morning it will not be too extreme.

**Other safety precautions:** We might encounter snakes; will definitely encounter prickly things, so it is best to watch where you put your hands and feet.

**Required items to bring:** Close-toed shoes (preferably with ankle support), sunscreen, hats and plenty of water.

**Map:** For the access point to the Prehistoric Trackways National Monument attached to email Map of trail below:





### **The Bisti Beast Excavation Site 12 Years Later**

**Meeting location, date, and time:** Huerfano Trading Post on 550, 40 miles south of Bloomfield, New Mexico, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am.

**Description of the trip:** We will hike into the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness area to the site of the excavation of the Bisti Beast.

**Science occurring in the area that will be discussed:** The wilderness is a remote desolate area of steeply eroded badlands that provide an opportunity for unusual types of primitive and unconfined hiking, backpacking, photography, and geological/paleontological sightseeing. We will discuss the geology and paleontology of the Fruitland and Kirtland formations as we hike through spectacular scenery on our way to the excavation site of the Bisti Beast. We will evaluate and discuss the condition of the ground at the excavation site.

**Duration of trip:** All Day.

**Travel time from Albuquerque:** 3 hours.

**Duration of trip:** 4.3 hours.

**If a hike is included, how many miles (round trip) and difficulty:** 3 miles of rugged badland hiking

**Vehicle Requirements:** After leaving 550, graded dirt road to Bisti Wilderness parking lot. Carpool from parking lot in 4WD or high clearance vehicles to area where hike will start. On signing up for this trip, indicate if you would like to carpool from the Bisti parking lot.

**Secondary lodging available:** Bloomfield NM.

**Weather conditions likely to be encountered:** Expect to encounter hot/cold weather, but also expect to be windy.

**Other safety precautions:** Rattlesnakes are possible.

**Required items to bring:** Hat, sunscreen, good hiking shoes, lunch, water, and a hiking stick.

**Group size information:** Minimum 5, maximum 15

### **Ojito Wilderness Area and the Seismosaurus Quarry**

**Meeting location, date, and time:** Albuquerque District Office, 435 Montano NE, ABQ NM 87107  
Friday May 28, 2010, 9:30 am.

**Description of the trip:** Travel to the Ojito Wilderness Area northwest of Albuquerque to visit the location of Seismosaurus excavation. During the trip there will be opportunity to visit some cultural resources in the area and view some expansive New Mexico Landscapes.

**Science occurring in the area that will be discussed:** Discussion of managing paleontological resources within WSA's and WA. The excavation of seismosaurus occurred while Ojito was a WSA and prior to the deadline of the non impairment criteria. Leader of the trip will share personnel experience of overseeing the project and reclamation process.

**Duration of trip:** All Day.

**Travel time from Albuquerque:** Approximately one hour.

**Duration of Trip:** Approximately six hours (including travel time).

**If a hike is included, how many miles (round trip) and difficulty:** two miles over fairly flat surface. If time permits, a visit to the white mesa bike trails with spectacular view of the San Juan Basin would add another easy two mile round trip hike.

**Vehicle Requirements:** High clearance vehicles. Pavement for most of the trip then travel is over washboard dirt road. Those without appropriate vehicles, or those wanting to carpool, may arrange for a ride ahead of time based on available space. On signing up for this trip, indicate if you would be willing to drive others, how many people your vehicle holds, and if it is 4WD or 2WD.

**Secondary lodging available:** Albuquerque, Bernalillo, or Farmington (if you are headed north).

**Weather conditions likely to be encountered:** Expect warm weather and wind. Although usually a dry time of year, be prepared for rain.

**Other safety precautions:** Rattlesnakes.

**Required items to bring:** Hat, sunscreen, sturdy but not heavy hiking boots, lunch, water, insect repellent, and binoculars. A hiking stick is also helpful.

### **Mathers Wilderness Study Area**

**Meeting location, date, and time:** Roswell Field Office east parking area located at 2909 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street on Friday May 28, 2010, at **4:00 am** where you will meet your guide.

**Description of the trip:** Travel from the Roswell Field Office begins at 4 am. The group will carpool approximately 40 miles east of Roswell to the Mathers WSA and vicinity to visit active lesser prairie chicken leks for the opportunity to observe the species during mating rituals (booming). After visiting

the lek areas, the group will also tour the surrounding Lesser Prairie Chicken ACEC before returning to Roswell.

**Science occurring in the area that will be discussed:** Early morning LPC lek areas. After viewing the lek areas, the specialist guide will give a tour of the WSA and ACEC to discuss the ecology of Mescalero Sands which would include soils, vegetation, landform, weather, and wildlife. Key wildlife species and their life history, important habitat features present on the landscape, current land use practices will be presented. Vegetation and wildlife monitoring studies will be discussed. A problem solving exercise of the above topics will be introduced to incorporate the science and art of mitigating land use practices on the habitat. There are two species that have been nominated for listing as T&E species, (lesser prairie chicken and the sand dune lizard), and the management actions taken to help prevent the listing of these species will be discussed.

**Duration of trip:** All Day.

**Travel time from Albuquerque:** 3 to 4 hours. Participants need to overnight in Roswell arriving on May 27, 2010.

**Duration of Trip:** 6 to 8 hours.

**If a hike is included, how many miles (round trip) and difficulty:** Most of the trip will be driving with occasional stops to look at specific features of the topics being discussed.

**Vehicle Requirements:** 2 - 3 multi passenger vehicles, preferably with 4x4 capabilities. Those participants who do not have 4x4 vehicles the Roswell Field Office will have 2 possibly 3 vehicles for participants to travel to the site.

**Secondary lodging available:** We encourage participants to take advantage of a motel next door to the Roswell Field Office since your trip will start at **4am**. You should contact the **Ramada Inn, 2803 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Roswell, NM, Phone: 575.623.9440**. Since this time frame is close to Memorial Day weekend, we recommend that you get your motel reservations as soon as possible.

**Weather conditions likely to be encountered:** Late May could be windy with blowing sand but is usually warm with temps in high 70's to mid 80's during the day. Weather could be a little cool at 4am, so you will want to have a coat or windbreaker for early morning.

**Other safety precautions:** Could encounter rattlesnakes, wasps or other stinging insects.

**Required items to bring:** Participants should bring: Hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, sun glasses, binoculars, ankle support high top boots, snacks, water, lunch.

### **Lower Gila Box Wilderness Study Area**

**Meeting location, date, and time:** Best Western, 1303 S Main Street, Lordsburg, New Mexico, May 29, 10:00am.

**Description of the trip:** We will park near the river and walk through a portion of the Gila Lower Box canyon, in a dense riparian area, crossing the Gila River by foot in several locations.

**Science occurring in the area that will be discussed:** This area is biologically diverse and contains several T&E listed species. This is an important bird area, and many species may be observed. We will discuss ongoing work related to willow fly catcher monitoring and habitat maintenance, 2 T&E listed

fish, riparian improvement projects, and habitat studies for the potential reintroduction of the Chihuahua leopard frog.

**Duration of trip:** All Day.

**Travel time from Albuquerque:** 6 hours.

**Duration of Trip:** 3 hours.

**If a hike is included, how many miles (round trip) and difficulty:** 2 mile hike, moderate - requires wading across river.

**Vehicle Requirements:** High clearance. Paved roads from Lordsburg, except for final 4 miles to the river. Final drive begins with graded dirt road and ends with unmaintained road with some rough sections requiring clearance. Those without appropriate vehicles, or those wanting to carpool, may arrange for a ride ahead of time based on available space. On signing up for this trip, indicate if you would be willing to drive others, how many people your vehicle holds, and if it is 4WD or 2WD.

**Secondary lodging available:** Lordsburg, NM. Best Western Western Skies Inn (505) 542-8807; Holiday Inn Express (575) 542-3666.

**Weather conditions likely to be encountered:** Expect to encounter hot weather, but also expect to be wet to the knees with water crossings.

**Other safety precautions:** The canyon supports a large population of rattlesnakes.

**Required items to bring:** Hat, sunscreen, tennis shoes or other footwear you are okay getting wet, lunch, water, insect repellent, and binoculars. A hiking stick is also helpful.

**Group size information:** Minimum 5, maximum 15.

## ARIZONA

### Agua Fria National Monument, Arizona

**Meeting location, date, and time:** Bloody Basin Road entrance off of I-17, exit 259. May 29, 2010, at 8:00 a.m.

**Description of the trip:** Travel by four-wheel-drive vehicles to Perry Mesa to site of prehistoric agricultural features and vegetation.

**Science occurring in the area that will be discussed:** The nexus between archaeology and ecology. Arizona State University is leading research into the Perry Mesa Tradition people (AD 1250-1450), and the legacy they left on the area in terms of archaeology and plant and soil communities.

**Duration of trip:**

**Travel time from Albuquerque:** 7 hours (410 miles).

**Duration of Trip:** 4 hours.

**If a hike is included, how many miles (round trip) and difficulty:** Tour will include two-miles of hiking off trail and over difficult, rocky terrain.

**Vehicle Requirements:** High clearance four-wheel drive vehicle.

**Secondary lodging available:** Truck stop in Cordes Junction (5 miles), hotels in Prescott (50 miles), hotels in Phoenix metro area (50-80 miles).

**Weather conditions likely to be encountered:** Sunny, hot, and dry. Temperatures average 100 degrees in late May.

**Other safety precautions:** Four-wheel drive vehicle required.

**Required items to bring:** Drinking water, lunch, sturdy hiking boots, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent.

### **Pakoon Springs Rehabilitation Project**

**Meeting location, date, and time:**

Arizona Strip District Office (for those coming via St. George); 345 East Riverside Drive, St. George, UT.

**Date and Time:** Saturday, May 29 09:00 MDT.

Smith's Supermarket Parking Lot (for those coming via Las Vegas/Mesquite); Mesquite, NV.

**Date and Time:** Saturday, May 29 - 09:00 PDT (note, this reflects the hour drive time from St. George to Mesquite, which are in different time zones).

**Description of the trip:** 2 hours drive from District Office to Pakoon Springs Rehabilitation Project site, and easy (but may be quite warm) stroll around the site.

**Science occurring in the area that will be discussed:** The rehabilitation is being implemented on a 5-10 acre area of six ponds containing numerous spring sources and the adjacent riparian habitat. Aspects of the implementation include channel reconstruction, removal of non-native species (flora and fauna), restoration of native vegetation, and introduction or re-introduction of native species, and could potentially include introduction of special status species. The rehabilitation is based on hydrologic, soil, and plant surveys and comparison with other regional sites and a recently developed springs types classification.

**Duration of trip:** All Day.

**Travel time from Albuquerque:** One full day.

**Duration of Trip:** approximately 5-6 hours from and returning to St. George.

**If a hike is included, how many miles (round trip) and difficulty:** No hike.

**Vehicle Requirements:** High clearance and good tires. Those without appropriate vehicles, or those wanting to carpool, may arrange for a ride ahead of time based on available space. On signing up for this trip, indicate if you would be willing to drive others, how many people your vehicle holds, and if it is 4WD or 2WD.

**Secondary lodging available:** Various motels in Mesquite, NV and St. George, UT .

**Weather conditions likely to be encountered:** Quite warm (90 degrees F).

**Other safety precautions:** Can be a rattlesnake in the wash area.

**Required items to bring:** Lots of water, lunch, suntan lotion, hat, binoculars, camera.

# UTAH

## **Grand Gulch Wilderness Study Area: Cultural Site (Ancestral Puebloan) Tour on Cedar Mesa, Utah**

**Meeting location, date, and time:** Kane Gulch Visitors Center (Approximately 36 miles west of Blanding, Utah on State Route 261), May 29, 2010 at 9:00 AM.

**Description of the trip:** Explore the unique canyons and prolific cultural sites of Cedar Mesa Special Recreation Area. Learn how the Monticello Field Office uses the Special Recreation Permit program to maintain backcountry recreational experiences and protects cultural resources at this treasured Utah landscapes. We will visit several world class Ancestral Puebloan sites.

**Trip Highlights:** World class cultural sites located in a beautiful canyon in a wilderness setting. The site visited is located with an SRMA, Recreational Management Zone and a Wilderness Study Area.

**Science occurring in the area that will be discussed:** Save America's Grant for cultural site documentation and stabilization. Newly implemented day use permit system.

**Duration of trip:** All Day.

**Travel time from Albuquerque:** 6 hours.

**Duration of Trip:** 9:00am – 5:00 pm (return to Visitors Center).

If a hike is included, how many miles (round trip) and difficulty: Approximately 3 miles RT. Very strenuous.

**Vehicle Requirements:** The highway to the visitors center is paved. We will meet at the visitors center and drive to the trailhead. The trailhead is approximately an hour drive and most of it is on a dirt road requiring high clearance or 4WD if wet. We will carpool from the visitors center. On signing up for this trip, indicate if you would be willing to drive, if you can bring others and how many people your vehicle holds, and if it is 4WD or 2WD.

**Secondary lodging available:** Lodging available in Blanding, Utah. Camping available within the Cedar Mesa Special Recreation Area or at nearby (14 miles from the Visitors Center) Natural Bridges National Monument.

**Weather conditions likely to be encountered:** Sunny and warm.

**Other safety precautions:** This hike traverses a canyon and in one location involves hiking on slickrock that may not be comfortable for people who do not like moderate heights.

**Required items to bring:** Bring your own lunch, water, hat, sunscreen, binoculars and sturdy hiking shoes are recommended. Rain is unlikely but rain gear is recommended.

**Group size information:** Maximum group size is 12. Minimum group size is 6.